DC
BAT MAN
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 325
JULY
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LEVITZ
CONSTRUCTION CO.
TONIGHT: COMMISSIONER GORDON MUST DIE!

THE DINGO KIDS MEET O.J. SIMPSON

IT'S O.J. SIMPSON BREAKING OFF TACKLE! HE'S AT THE 40, THE 30. HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY. IT'S A TOUCH DOWN!

LATER ... IN THE LOCKER ROOM

WOW! O.J. SIMPSON! LET'S GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!

AW, A SUPERSTAR LIKE HIM WOULDN'T NOTICE US...

HEY! WITH THOSE DINGO BOOTS, YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE SUPERSTARS!

O.J.! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE WEARING DINGO'S?

MAN, IT'S EASY! NOBODY PUTS LEATHER TOGETHER LIKE DINGO! I WEAR DINGO'S MYSELF!

YOU WEAR DINGO'S, O.J.!

SURE! I'VE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL ON MY FEET AFTER A GREAT GAME.

HEY, O.J. HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?

FOR THE DINGO KIDS? YOU BET!

O.J. Dingo

KIDS! GET YOUR FREE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF ME, O.J.! MAIL TO "O.J. DINGO", P.O. BOX 749, CLARKSVILLE, TENN. 37040.

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ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
BAT MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
--DIE, COMMISSIONER!
THE QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS WHY.
WHY HAS THE BATMAN BETRAYED ONE OF HIS OLDEST AND DEAREST FRIENDS HERE, FAR ABOVE THE DARK, SPRAWLING STREETS OF GOTHAM?
BUT, THERE IS NO TIME FOR ANSWERS, NOT NOW. NOW THERE IS ONLY TIME FOR...
DEATH--TWENTY STORIES HIGH
ROGER McKENZIE: GUEST WRITER * IRV NOVICK and STEVE MITCHELL: ARTISTS
MILT SNAPINN: LETTERER * ADRIENNE ROY: COLORIST * PAUL LEVITZ: EDITOR

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FOR ANSWERS WE MUST GO BACK NEARLY 24 HOURS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...WHERE A TROUBLED COMMISSIONER GORDON BURNS THE MIDNIGHT OIL.

FIRST A CRIME WAVE SWEEPS GOTHAM THE SAME TIME AS A *RECALL* ELECTION--

--AND NOW THIS, A *DEATH-THREAT* ADDRESSED TO THE BATMAN! I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S A CONNECTION, BUT *SOMETHING'S* ROTTEN...

GOTHAM GAZETTE

ELECTION EVE CRIME WAVE HITS CITY!

CANDIDATE BRAND CALLS GORDON INCOMPETENT!

BRAND MEANS BUSINESS-- PLEDGES A RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER IF ELECTED COMMISSIONER!

CANDIDATE BRAND

POLL SHOWS GORDON SLIPPING...

...AND IT *SMELLS* TO HIGH HEAVEN.

IF SOMEBODY'S OUT TO *DELIBERATELY* WRECK MY CHANCES, HE'S DOING A GOOD JOB.

ACCORDING TO ALL THE POLLS MY *CREDIBILITY* IS SLIPPING FAST.

THAT HURTS. THAT HURTS A LOT.

I'VE GIVEN THIS CITY THE *BEST* YEARS OF MY LIFE. THIS CITY *IS* MY LIFE.

IT *WASN'T* EASY, WORKING MY WAY UP FROM A WET BEHIND THE EARS ROOKIE COP WALKING A BEAT, TO HOMICIDE DETECTIVE, AND FINALLY TO POLICE COMMISSIONER.

AND IT'S *NOT* EASY TO *ADMIT* I'M NOT AS *YOUNG* AS I USED TO BE.

BUT MAYBE IT'S TIME I FACED THE TRUTH, MAYBE I *SHOULD* STEP ASIDE. MAYBE I'M *TOO*--

OLD FRIEND, YOU LOOK *WORRIED*.

WHAT'S UP?

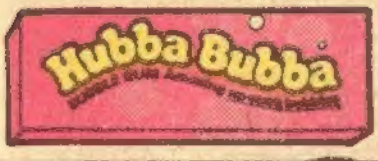
TROUBLE.

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
THIS. I THINK YOU'D BETTER READ IT.
I'VE BEEN THREATENED BEFORE, COMMISSIONER.
I KNOW THAT, BATMAN. YOU LIVE WITH DEATH.
WE BOTH DO, COMMISSIONER. BUT WHOEVER SENT THIS IS JUST TAKING--
--A SHOT IN THE DARK!?
KRAKKK
YYEEEEEEE
IT'S BEGUN, OLD FRIEND.
YOU'RE A MARKED TARGET.
BATMAN? BATMAN?
HE'S GONE!
3

THAT'S THAT! NOW I'D BETTER GIT OUTTA HERE BEFORE--
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, RIGHT?
B-BATMAN!
WELL, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE, PUNK.
AND YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS.
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT OFF NOW IS YOUR MOUTH.
I WANT ANSWERS, PUNK.
THEY RACE ACROSS RAIN-SLICKENED STEEL GIRDERS, THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED.
ONE RUNS IN FEAR.
THE OTHER IS FEAR.
WH-WHY DON'T HE STOP? GOD, WHY DON'T HE STOP?
I KEEP PUMPIN' THE LEAD AT 'IM, BUT HE JUST KEEPS COMIN' AND COMIN'! WHAT KIND'A MAN IS HE?
SOME SAY HE ISN'T A MAN AT ALL.
THEY CLAIM HE IS A DEMON. A DARK, DREAD DEMON OF VENGEANCE THAT PROWLS THE SHADOWS OF GOTHAM.
AND THEY SWEAR BY ALL THAT'S HOLY... AND MUCH THAT ISN'T... THAT NOTHING OR NO ONE EVER ESCAPES THE BATMAN.

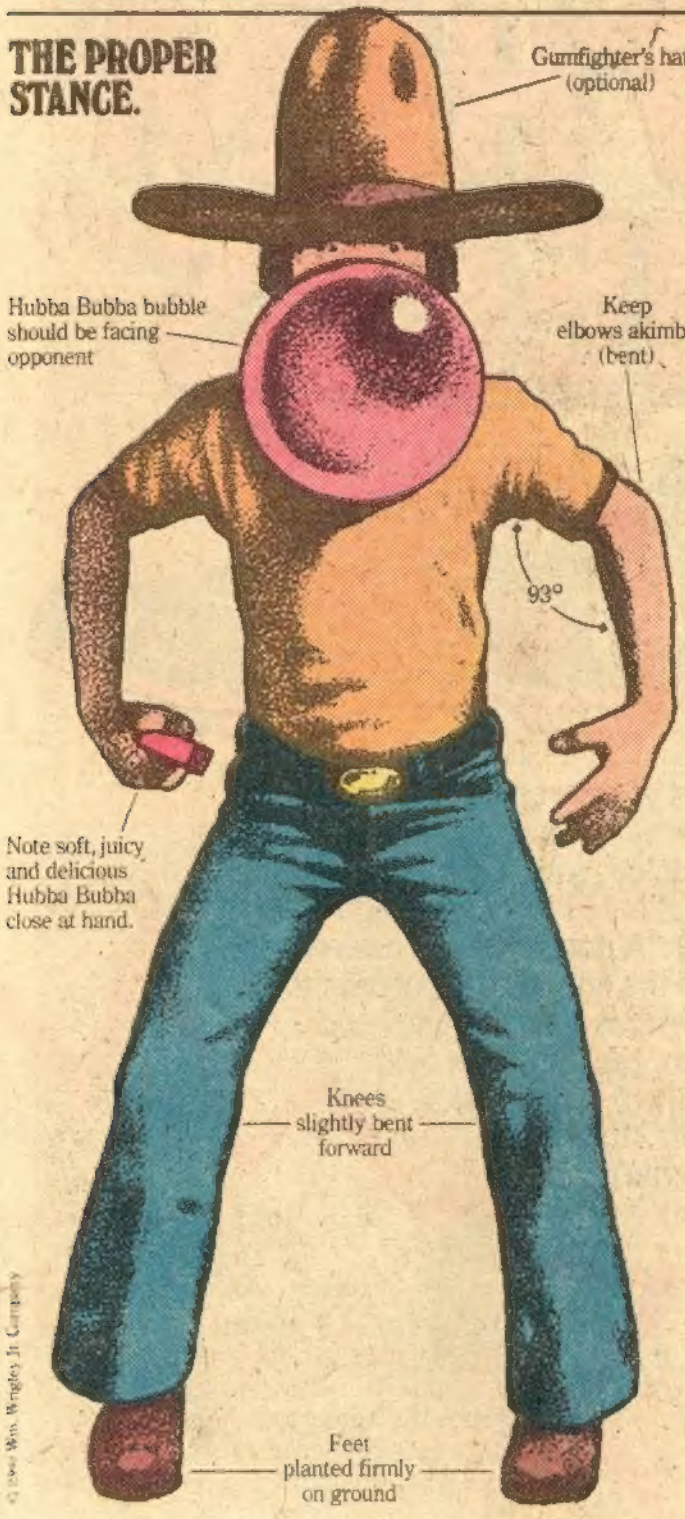
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.



The first thing to do—pick the right chew: Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.


Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
93°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

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Geographic availability may vary.

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

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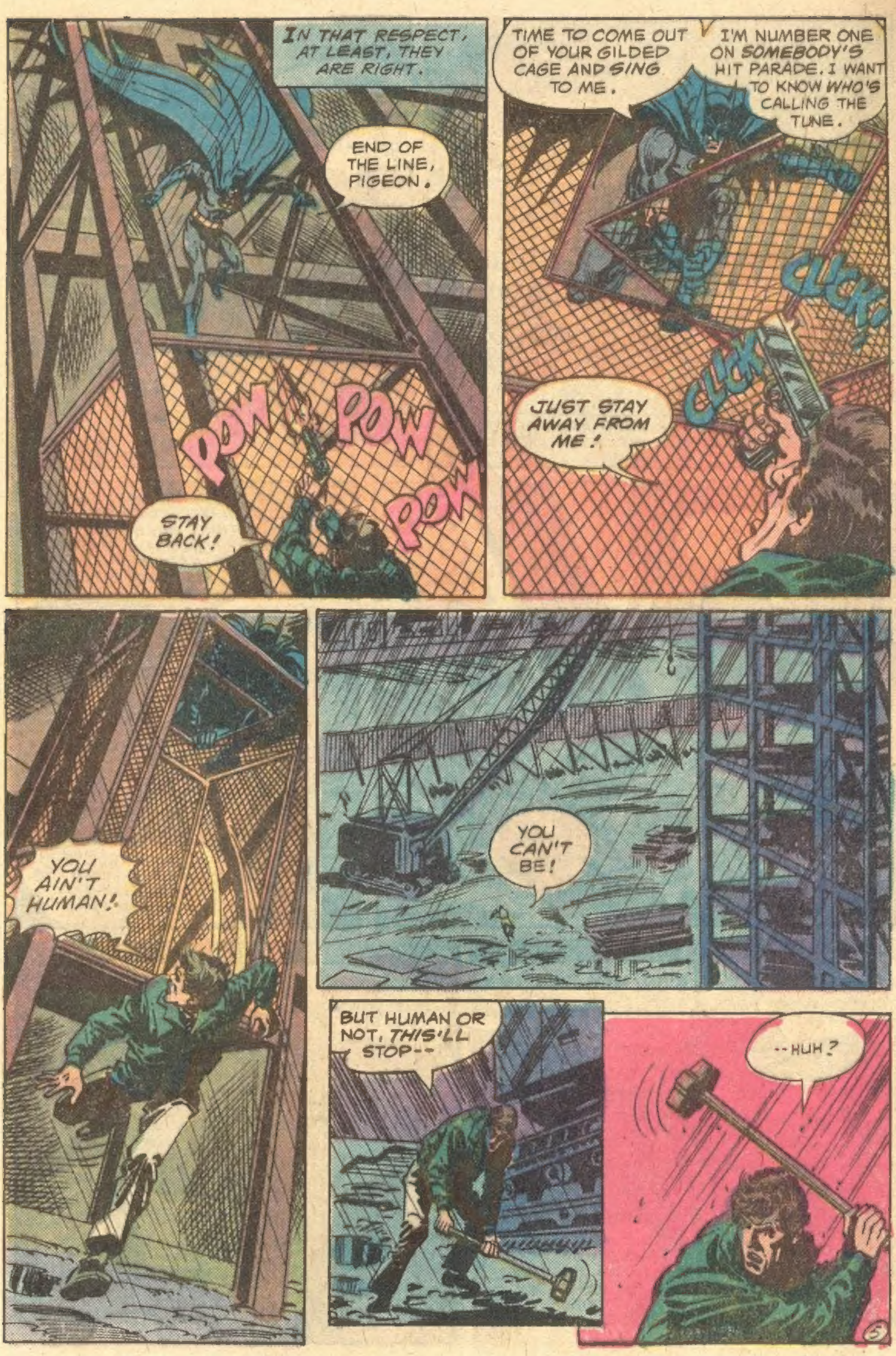
IN THAT RESPECT, AT LEAST, THEY ARE RIGHT.
END OF THE LINE, PIGEON.
POW
POW
POW
STAY BACK!
TIME TO COME OUT OF YOUR GILDED CAGE AND SING TO ME.
I'M NUMBER ONE ON SOMEBODY'S HIT PARADE. I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S CALLING THE TUNE.
CLICK
CLICK
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME!
YOU AIN'T HUMAN!
YOU CAN'T BE!
BUT HUMAN OR NOT, THIS'LL STOP--
--HUH?
5

I DON'T GET IT. HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME ONE SECOND AND GONE THE NEXT!
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR SURE. I AIN'T COMPLAININ'!
IN THE DARKNESS AND THE STORM, THE BATMAN WATCHES... AND SILENTLY WAITS...
...UNTIL...
...SPARE A... HIC!... QUARTER, MAN? YOU HEAR... HIC!... WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
CAN'T RUN NO MORE... GOTTA REST... THINK...
I NEVER SHOULD'A GOT MESSED UP IN THIS... NEVER SHOULD'A TANGLED WITH THE BATMAN! THIS WHOLE SCAM'S--
--BLOWIN' UP RIGHT IN MY FACE!?
KERASH!
THE HANDS OF THE BATMAN, HARD AS STEEL, CLUTCH THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN, LIFTING HIM EFFORTLESSLY OFF HIS FEET. BUT IT IS THE VOICE OF THE BATMAN, HARDER THAN STEEL, THAT CLUTCHES HIS HEART IN TERROR...
ONCE AGAIN, PIGEON, WHO SET ME UP?
I-I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT! IF HE FINDS OUT I SQUEALED, HE'LL OFF ME FOR SURE!
YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH ME!
N-NO, WAIT! I'LL TALK! I GOT MY ORDERS FROM THE CANDY MAN, SWEET LOU MILLIGAN!
BUT HE'S JUST THE GO-BETWEEN! I DUNNO WHO HE'S WORKIN' FOR, HONEST!
H-HEY, YOU'RE NOT... I-I MEAN YOU COULDN'T BE...
...COULD YOU...?
WAYNE FOUNDATION ALCOHOL CLINIC BE THERE! The BATMAN!
BOOK HIM ATTEMPTED MURDER! The BATMAN!

THE NEXT MORNING...
ROUGH NIGHT, COMMISSIONER?
MURDER.
POLICE HEADQ
EASY... EASY...
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I OR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION CAN DO--
I APPRECIATE THAT, BRUCE. RIGHT NOW I CAN USE ALL THE SUPPORT I CAN GET.
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
THAT'S IT, MR. BRAND. SMILE.
MY PLEASURE, PARKER. HOW'S THIS?
CLICK!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR BRAND, HE'S GOT CHARISMA.
COMMISSIONER, IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMOR YOU'RE THINKING OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE ELECTION!
ARE YOU GOING TO RETIRE?
WHAT?!
GOTHAM NEEDS YOU, OLD FRIEND. MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW.
COMMISSIONER, IN RECENT WEEKS, CRIME HAS REACHED NEAR-EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS IN GOTHAM.
WHAT MEASURES, IF ANY HAVE YOU TAKEN TO COMBAT THIS PROBLEM?

HE'S BEEN DOING EVERY-THING HE CAN.
BATMAN!
BATMAN, FOR THE RECORD, WHICH CANDIDATE DO YOU BACK?
COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS SERVED THIS TOWN WITH HONOR, DEDICATION AND DIGNITY FOR MANY YEARS.
I ONLY PRAY HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO DO SO FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.
YOU'D BE A FOOL NOT TO! HE PRACTICALLY LETS YOU RUN GOTHAM!
NOW JUST A MOMENT, TOM! YOU MAY BE MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER, BUT I THINK YOU'RE OUT OF LINE HERE!
THE BATMAN'S RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, IT'LL BE AN HONOR... AND A PLEASURE ...TO WORK WITH HIM WHEN I'M ELECTED COMMISSIONER!
GREAT WORK, BOB! THEY BOUGHT THAT LITTLE SPEECH HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!
HAMILTON, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I MEANT EVERY WORD I SAID!
THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY...
HOW'S ABOUT ANOTHER PICTURE?
THAT FLASH-- I CAN'T SEE!
FLASH
POP
NEITHER CAN THE BATMAN!
THAT'S THE POINT! HE'LL NEVER SEE WHAT HITS HIM!

THE FLASH™
A FLASH IN THE DAM
THE DESTROYER WILL BLAST THE DAM TO PIECES... UNLESS I GET THERE FIRST.
I WANT EVERYBODY TO BE MISERABLE AND UNHAPPY LIKE ME. THEY WILL BE WHEN I DESTROY THE DOOVER DAM!
WHOOOPS. THE DESTROYER STARTED WITHOUT ME... BUT I'M HERE NOW!
YOU FORGOT TO INCLUDE ME IN YOUR PLANS, DESTROYER.
THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, DESTROYER, IS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED TO ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE....
WHY, THESE ARE HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES. MMM... THIS LIGHT, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMED FILLING.
YOU WIN, FLASH. I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP! THERE IS A LOT OF HAPPINESS IN HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES.
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DC WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

POW!
BAM!
COMMISSIONER! BRAND! HIT THE DECK!
YOU'RE IN THE LINE OF FIRE!
S-SOMETHIN'S WRONG, HE AIN'T BLI-- UNGHH!
MY COWL PROTECTED MY EYES, CHUM. BUT NOTHING'S GOING TO PROTECT YOU--
--OR YOUR BUDDY. HE CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH OR FAR ENOUGH TO--
YOU HEARD THE BATMAN!
CLICK
CLICK
GOTHAM HERALD
BRAND AIDS BATMAN IN POLICE H.Q. SHOOTOUT
BIZARRE MELEE
BRAND SUBDUES GUNMAN WHILE COMMISSIONER GORDON IS HELPLESS!
BLAST IT, BRUCE, BE REASONABLE! YOU CAN'T STILL SERIOUSLY SUPPORT GORDON! NOT AFTER THIS!

I NOT ONLY CAN, I DO.
AND SO DO I.
GENTLEMEN, I... COMMISSIONER GORDON... AND ALL OF GOTHAM NEED YOUR HELP.
BRUCE, WHAT GOTHAM NEEDS IS STRONG LEADERSHIP! BOB BRAND OFFERS THAT LEADERSHIP!
TIMES CHANGE, BRUCE. PEOPLE CHANGE. WE HAVE TO CHANGE WITH THEM.
THEY'RE IN AN UGLY MOOD, BRUCE. THEY'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A SCAPEGOAT.
THEY'RE POWERFUL, INFLUENTIAL MEN. I WAS COUNTING ON THEM, LUCIUS.
WELL, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE OLD BALL-GAME.
IF THEY DON'T GO TO BAT FOR GORDON, HE'LL NEVER BE REELECTED.
I JUST WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE WE COULD DO.
THERE IS--BUT NOT "WE", LUCIUS --JUST ME.
ALFRED, I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR DINNER.
NOT TONIGHT.
WILL YOU BE GONE LONG, SIR?
AS LONG AS IT TAKES. I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO.
WILL YOU COVER FOR ME?
YOU MAY DEPEND ON ME, MASTER BRUCE.
I ALWAYS HAVE, ALFRED. I ALWAYS WILL.
THANK YOU, SIR. GOOD LUCK AND--
--GOD'S SPEED...

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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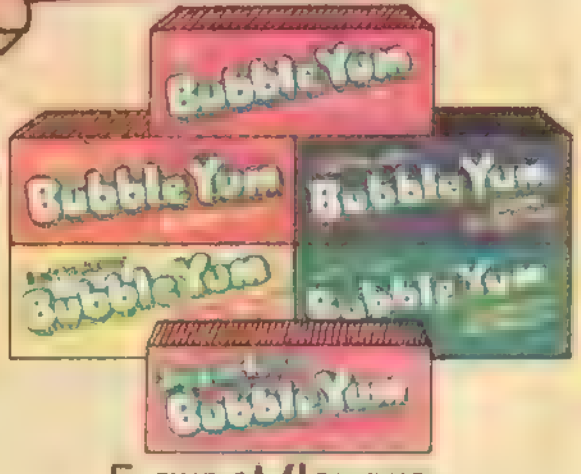

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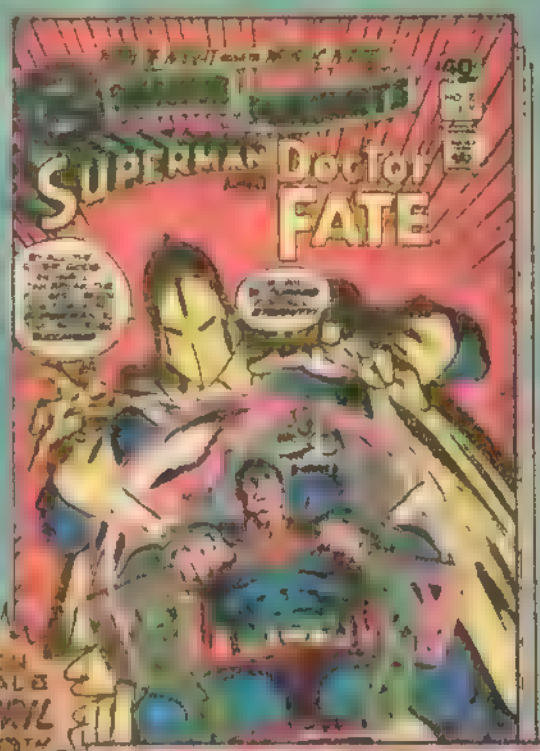

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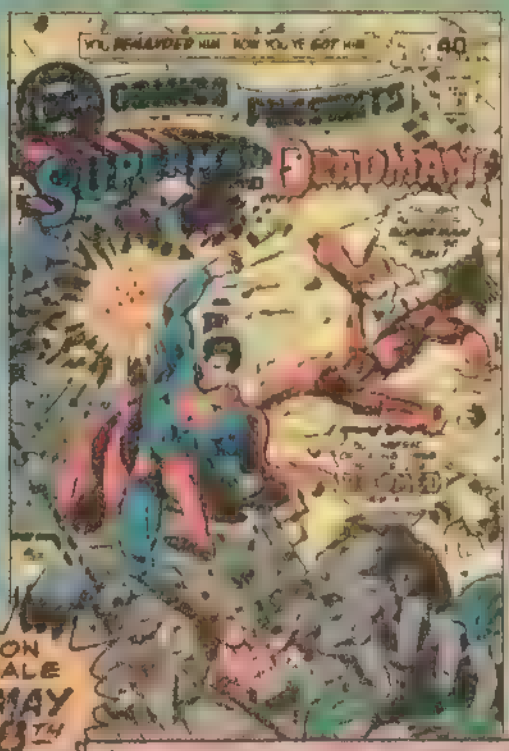

by LEN WEIN & J.L. GARCIA-LOPEZ

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The Legend of the BATMAN Continues...
THE CONCLUDING ISSUES OF AN EPIC OF EXTRAORDINARY EXCITEMENT!
THE COLLECTOR'S ITEM OF 1980
by Len Wein & Jim Aparo
THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN
ON SALE MAY 22ND
ON SALE JUNE 19TH

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LATER, ON THE WATERFRONT
THOUGHT I SMELLED SOMETHIN'. WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE?
BEATS ME.
LENNY, LOOK! THIS'S OUR BIG CHANCE!
YOU CRAZY? PUT THAT AWAY! HE'S GOT A THING ABOUT GUNS!
LISSEN, BUDDY, WHY DON'TCHA GO LOOK FOR TROUBLE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOU'RE BAD FOR BUSINESS, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I'M MURDER FOR BUSINESS, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
MILLIGAN OWNS THIS DIVE AND I OWE HIM. WHERE IS HE?
UP--UP--UP!
"LISTA OS..."
COME RIGHT ON IN, BATMAN! AS YOU CAN SEE, I EXPECTED YOU!
CANDYMAN, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR THE DISPOS-ITION TO PLAY GAMES WITH YOU!
WHUMP!
AND I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS OR THE COURAGE TO PUT A CONTRACT OUT ON ME. I WANT TO KNOW WHO DID.
J-JUST EASE OFF, MAN! EASE OFF!
I-IT WAS BRAND! BOB BRAND!

I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, CANDY-MAN, AND THAT'S A PROMISE.
SUCKER.
SO FAR. SO GOOD. HE DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING.
"IT'S A SAFE BET THE FOOL'S HEADING STRAIGHT TO BRAND'S CAMPAIGN HEAD-QUARTERS."
"AND IT'S A SURE BET HE WON'T LEAVE THERE ALIVE!"
BRAND (CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS)
FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER VOTE BRAND
BRAND, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
FACE TO FACE.
THE BATMAN GLIDES ACROSS THE ROOM, A SHADOW AMONG SHADOWS, HIS EVERY SENSE ALERT.
HE REACHES OUT, SPINNING BRAND AROUND IN HIS CHAIR. FOR A MOMENT NEITHER MAN MOVES.
THEN...
HE'S BEEN SHOT! HE'S DEAD!

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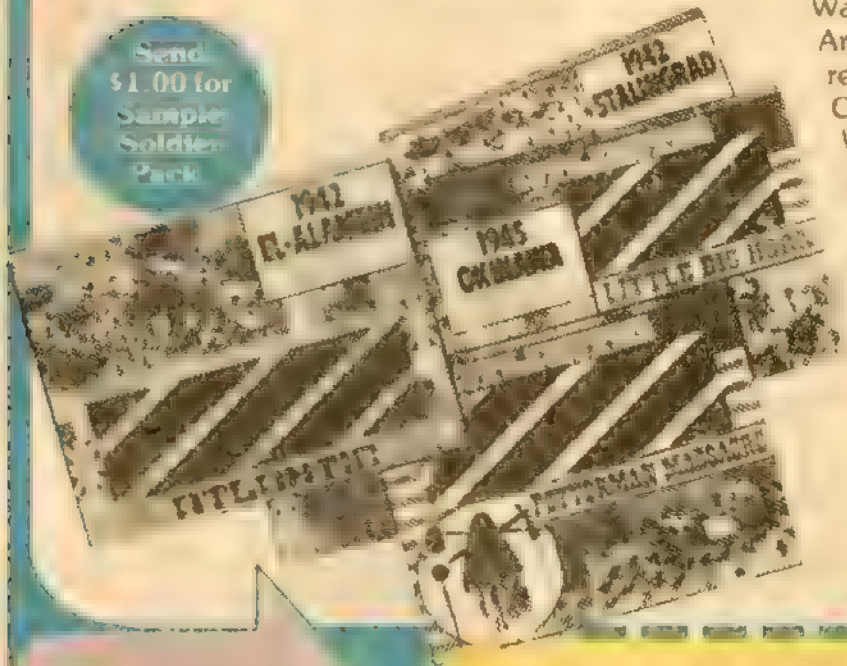

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AND SO ARE YOU, BATMAN.
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FANCY. KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM. I KNOW YOUR REP--
--I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE YOU EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE.
CLICK!
JUST LIKE BRAND, HAMILTON?
YOU DIDN'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE EITHER.
I GAVE HIM EVERY CHANCE. I GAVE HIM GOTHAM ON A SILVER PLATTER. ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS PLAY ALONG WITH ME.
BRAND WAS AN HONEST MAN.
BRAND WAS A FOOL! WHEN HE FOUND OUT I WAS BEHIND THE CRIME WAVE THAT HAD DISCREDITED GORDON, HE THREATENED TO EXPOSE ME, EVEN IF IT MEANT DESTROYING HIM!
DON'T YOU SEE, BATMAN? I COULDN'T LET HIM LIVE ANYMORE THAN I CAN LET YOU LIVE, NOW! OR GORDON, FOR THAT MATTER!
THAT'S THE BEAUTIFUL PART, BATMAN! I'M NOT GOING TO KILL GORDON! YOU ARE!
LOOK, BATMAN! HE'S WAITING FOR YOU AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
VOTE BRAND
CALL HIM. TELL HIM... HEHHEH... TELL HIM YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
HAMILTON, YOU'RE SICK--
NO, JUST PRACTICAL!
13
THE PHONE'S DEAD!
THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN! ALL THE PHONES ARE DEAD! EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING THAT STOOD IN MY WAY ARE DEAD...
...OR DYING...

I DON'T THINK SO, HAMILTON! I'VE HEARD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH!
TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT PLANNED FOR GORDON. IT'LL GO EASIER FOR YOU.
BAM
N-NO--! YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME! TO TRIP ME UP!
HAMILTON! LOOK OUT!
KER-RASH!
NNOOO!
POOR DEVIL--! I COULDN'T REACH HIM IN--
WHA--? GUNFIRE! IT'S THE CANDYMAN'S THUGS!
THERE HE IS! POUR IT ON!
RAT-A-TAT-TAT
HE GOT THE BOSS, BUT WE GOT HIM! BATMAN'S TRAPPED IN THERE!
YOU MEN TAKE 'IM! NOW!
SURE THING, CANDYMAN!

THIS'LL BE A CINCH! HE AIN'T EVEN ARMED!
BATMAN'S HEADIN' SOUTH ON MURDOCK STREET TOWARD POLICE HEADQUARTERS! CUT 'IM OFF!
I'VE GOT TO REACH COMMISSIONER GORDON!
AND NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME!
THEN CUT 'IM DOWN!
THERE WAS NEVER A CONTRACT OUT ON ME. THAT WAS JUST A BLIND TO CONCEAL HAMILTON'S REAL TARGET...COMMISSIONER GORDON!
BUT HAMILTON MUST HAVE HAD A BACK-UP PLAN, IN CASE SOMETHING WENT WRONG!
HERE HE COMES!
BUT WHAT? AND WHAT DID HE MEAN WHEN HE SAID I'D BE THE DEATH OF GORDON?
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. OBVIOUSLY, I'D NEVER HURT THE COMMISSIONER--INTENTIONALLY!

BUT WHAT IS THERE ABOUT THE BATMAN THAT COMMISSIONER GORDON AND I SHARE IN COM--
OF COURSE, THAT'S IT!
WHAM!
THE BAT-SIGNAL! IF THOSE "REPAIRMEN" I SAW THIS MORNING WERE ACTUALLY WORKING FOR HAMILTON--
--THEY COULD HAVE EASILY BOOBY-TRAPPED THE BAT-SIGNAL! AND THE HEAT GENERATED BY THE ARC-LAMP COULD JUST AS EASILY DETONATE A BOMB!
IF I'M WRONG, I'LL APOLOGIZE LATER! RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOT A SECOND TO LOSE!
GET OFF THE ROOF, OR YOU'RE GOING TO--
--DIE COMMISSIONER!
VROOM!
N-NO... FORCE OF BLAST... PUSHED ME TOO FAR!
I CAN'T REACH GORDON!
16

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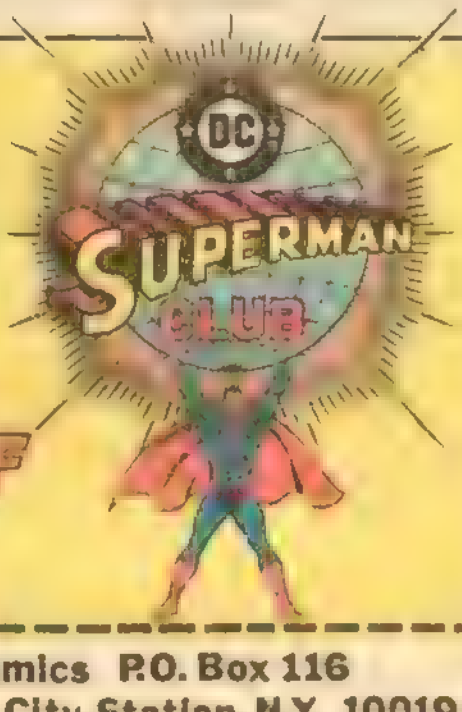

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--BUT YOU'RE BOUND TO BE STUCK ON THEM!

WORLD OF KRYPTON AND OTHER SURPRISES

APPEARING IN SUPERMAN

KRYPTO THE SUPERDOG (AND OTHER SURPRISES)

THE MISADVENTURES OF SUPERBABY

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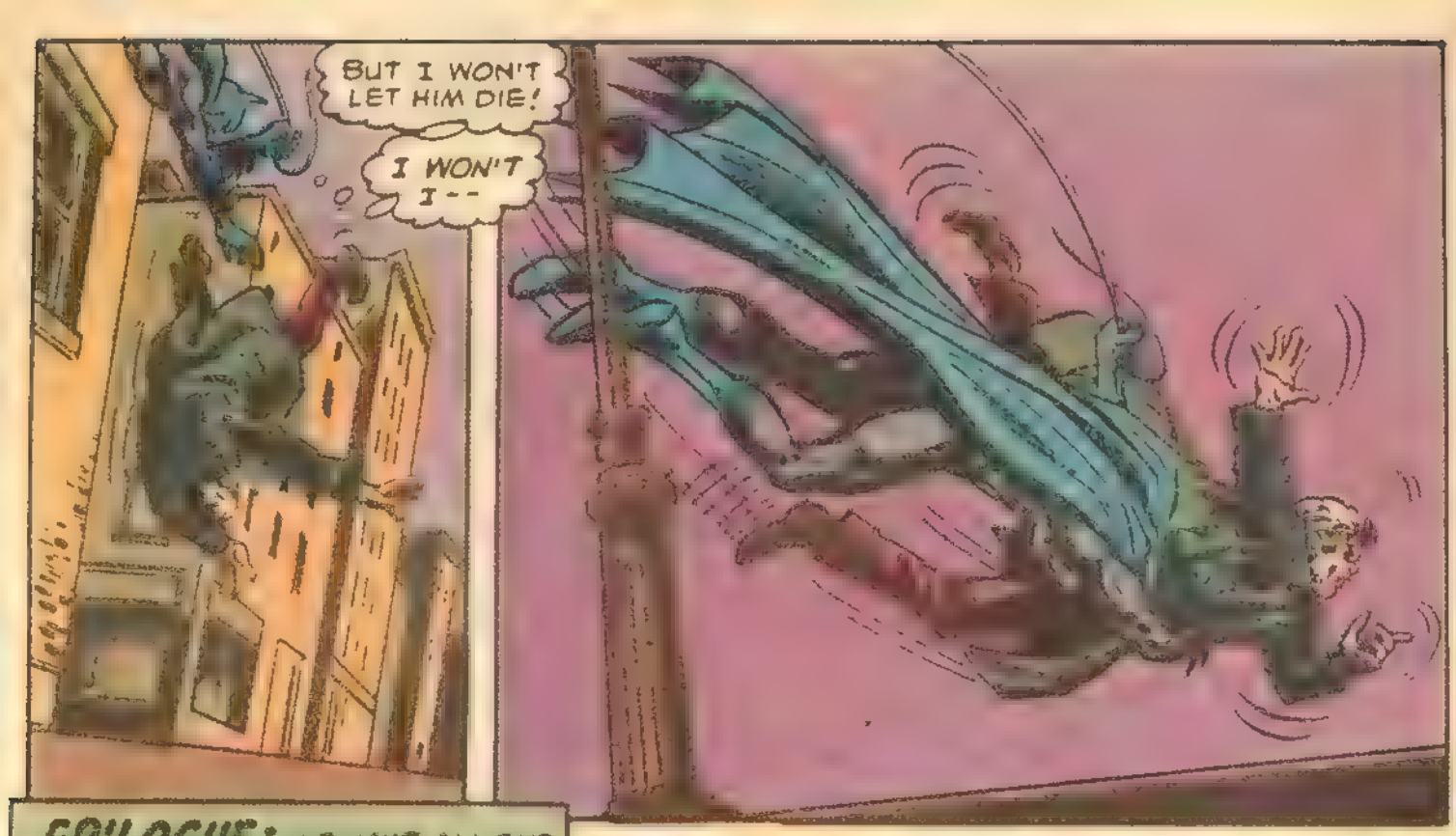
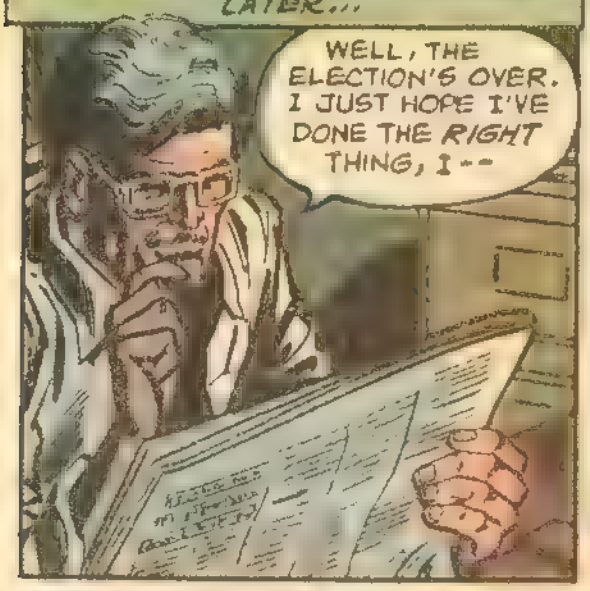
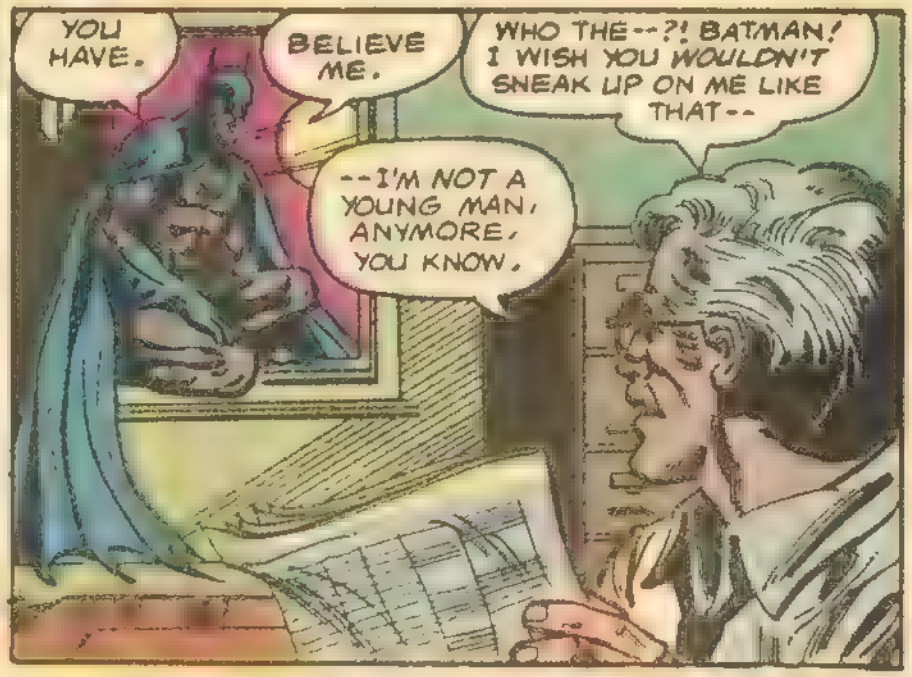
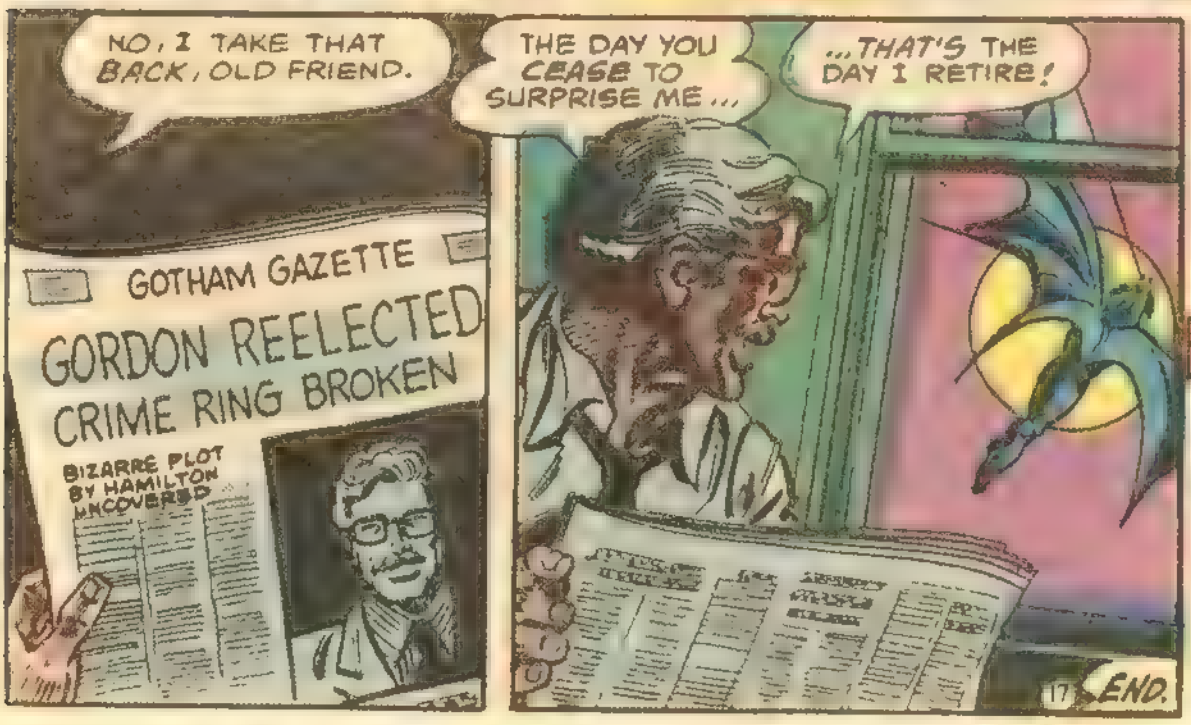


EPILOGUE: WE HAVE ALL OUR ANSWERS NOW. EXCEPT ONE. IT COMES A WEEK LATER...



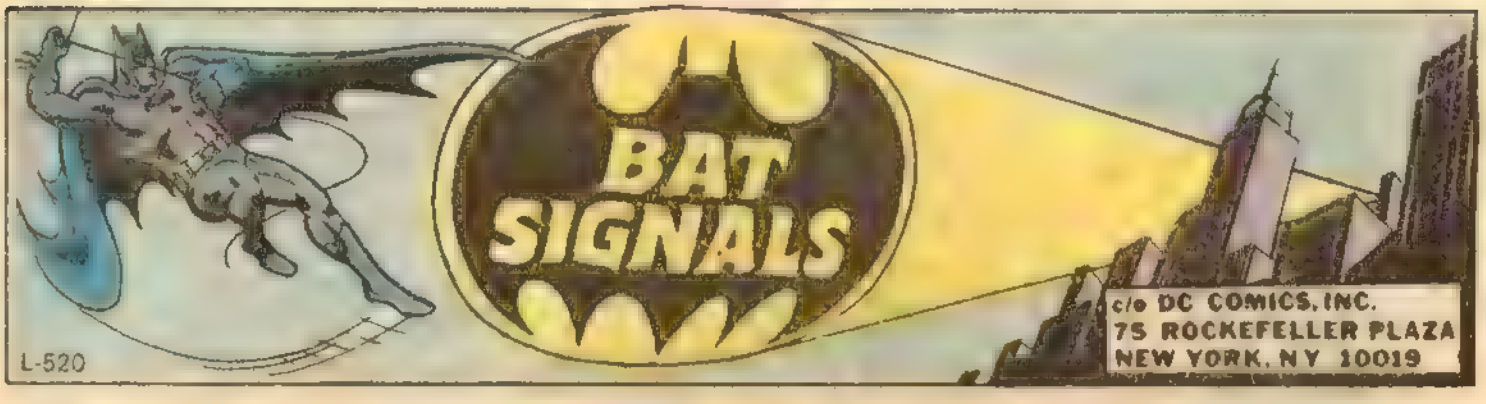



NO, I TAKE THAT *BACK*, OLD FRIEND.
THE DAY YOU *CEASE* TO SURPRISE ME...
...THAT'S THE DAY I RETIRE!
GOTHAM GAZETTE
GORDON REELECTED
CRIME RING BROKEN
BIZARRE PLOT BY HAMILTON UNCOVERED
END.

NEXT

"INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE MAD!"

ON SALE SECOND WEEK IN MAY!



Dear Editor,

While your associate editor is rummaging through the DC vaults for more beautiful Berni Wrightson/Batman covers, like the one on *BATMAN* #320, I would like to compliment you and Denny on the skillful way that you insinuated the "theme" of the seven sins into an otherwise cut-and-dried murder mystery.

Cardinal Ramirez's fanatical derision of the new order of priests immediately pegged him as the obvious suspect, and therefore the first to be dismissed by me, but I never stopped to consider the other major exponent in the "Inquisitor" cast—Lieutenant Sanchez A.K.A. the Inquisitor.

This issue was full of surprises, and also struck a nostalgic chord with the Shadow-inspired mailing address of the Caped Crusader's.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, Pa. 18509

Credit for the Berni Wrightson cover discovery rests with the man who bought it in the first place, Julie Schwartz, who also preserved it against the day when it might come in handy. Interestingly, Berni's unusual signature threw off our usual corps of art detectives to the degree that some gave up entirely, while one correspondent praised Garcia Lopez for its "Adams-like detail" on Batman's face!—PL

* * * * *

Dear Denny—

"Who ever heard of a mailman delivering at *night?!*" is what a lot of your LOCers on Batman #320 are going to chortle. "Mistake, mistake!"

'Not so!' the Levitz-replier will retort. 'Special Delivery mail is delivered virtually anytime.—And The Batman, busy crime-buster that he is, would surely have arranged to get his clippings sent Special Delivery rather than await the snailpaced regular rounds.'

"But his mailbag was loaded with other stuff, too!" comes the return chortle. 'Don't forget: it's an *office building*. A lot of companies have special delivery service for their night shift to take care of, don't they?'

"Okay—but how did Batman know he should swing past at that specific moment, to take the envelope?" 'He didn't. See his shadow on the splash page. He was concealed in the hallway, having been in the building for some other purpose, no doubt. He merely slipped out and re-entered thru the window to save the Sigerson cover. So there!'

Gideon Smith
11421 Notre Dame
Cleveland, OH 44104

Only a single reader wrote in to complain about the night delivery, but we thank you for your valiant defense nonetheless ... and while we're on the subject of thanks, we'd like to use our editorial priviledge to make an awkward segue and thank both Roger McKenzie and Steve Mitchell for their fill-in services on this issue. Regular writer Len Wein returns next month with the denouement of Bruce and Selina's relationship, and regular inker Frank McLaughlin really will be back soon...even though his "brief" sojurn on GREEN LANTERN has kept him from these pages for far longer than we dreamed possible.—PL.

Dear Editor,

Batman #320 was absolutely the pits. The story should of been in an issue of Detective instead of Batman. Though I did think the cover was really good. I'm still trying to figure out who did it. It was really unique. Whoever did it, I'd tell Jenette to give 'em a raise so he doesn't go over to your MARVELous competition

The plot of the Inquisitor seemed like Justice Wargrave's murder plot in Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None". (Or if you prefer "Ten Little Indians".) Though while I am still mad at Denny for killing off Batwoman (I don't think that I will ever be able to forgive you. I wish that you would tell me why she was killed?), this issue was rather good. (If you think this letter is confusing so far, wait 'til you finish it.) Though, while I read the issue twice, I still didn't understand it. I know he was killing them in the order of the seven capital sins, but why did he decide to kill priests? That is rather sick, isn't it. You could of picked models or maybe even millionaires. That would of been interesting.

The Irv Norvick/Bob Smith was much better than last issue. And last issue's art was absolutely fantastic. The Batman never looked better, especially page 7, panel 7, page 9, panel 1, page 16, panel 6, and page 17, panel 4. All those panels were exceptional.

Well, that is all for now, though I am anxiously awaiting the next issue. Just keep the good work in this mag!!!!!!!

Matthew Kurtz
116 Valley View Dr.
Butler, PA 16001

We certainly do think the choice of killing priests was sick, but then, we admit to believing that murder is always the act of an unbalanced mind. And as to similarities to Christie's classic, you've lost us entirely. We're long-time fans of the Grande Dame of the murder mystery, but we really can't see the parallels in any significant sense.

The one of your criticisms we do buy into wholeheartedly is the feeling that the story might have been better off in Detective, *and we take that as a compliment to the thematic tone Denny's set for that mag. However, when deadlines required the pinch-hitting, we handed Denny's tale to Irv and had Cary Burkett's fill-in given to Don Newton for* Detective, *and if there was an error, it was purely ours, not the writers'.—PL.*

* * * * *

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! Because of the success of THE WORLD OF KRYPTON last spring, DC proudly announces a new mini-series of extraordinary interest to Batman fans. In two weeks, copies of the first of three issues of THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN will arrive at your local newsstand or comics shop.

This mini-series will reveal all the secrets of the Batman, including the previously untold story of the years of his training. Because we want these to be outstanding comics, we've put together a special creative team: Len Wein will be doing the writing, and *X-MEN* artists John Byrne and Terry Austin will be doing the interior artwork. Covers will be by Jose Luis Garcia Lopez, and all three issues will contain extra pages beyond the usual for a 40¢ comic.

We think it's a gem, and we hope you'll keep your eyes peeled for it.

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: Where did *Chronos* first appear?—Floyd McGee. A: This enemy of the Tiny Titan debuted in *THE ATOM* #3.

Q: How did *Blackhawk* get his powers?—Jerome James. A: He doesn't have any, except that he is a superb fighting man and pilot.

Q: Is George Reeves dead?—George Foulkes. A: Yes, the man who played *Superman* on TV committed suicide over twenty years ago.

Q: Is *Kid Flash*'s origin the same as *Flash*'s?—Freddie Mack. A: Pretty much. Both were splashed with chemicals which were struck by a bolt of lightning.

Q: If there is an Earth-2 and a Krypton-2, could there possibly be a Thanagar-2 as well?—John Merullo. A: Considering the similarities between the parallel universes it is more than likely.

Q: Where is the Hall of Justice?—David Collins. A: In Gotham City.

Q: Does gold kryptonite merely cancel the effects of a yellow sun on a Kryptonian or does it also negate his gravity-born strength?—Unsigned. A: It cancels all of a Kryptonian's super-powers, regardless of their source.

Q: If you were wearing *Superman*'s costume and someone tried to stab you, could they?—Markham Wong. A: No, the suit is as indestructible as *Superman*.

Q: Will *Red Tornado* have his own comic book?—Gene Underwood. A: No, but he's got a solo feature coming up in *DETECTIVE COMICS* #492.

Q: What comic did *Supergirl* first appear in?—James Purdy. A: *ACTION COMICS* #252.

Q: What issues of *JUSTICE LEAGUE* were 100-pagers?—Bobby. A: #'s 110-116.

Q: What are the names of the *Metal Men*?—John Green. A: Platinum (Tina), Iron, Gold, Mercury, Lead, and Tin.

Q: Will I be notified when my subscriptions run out?—Walt West. A: You'll be notified far enough in advance to renew without missing an issue.

Q: Where does *Green Lantern* put his power ring when he is Hal Jordan?—Jeff Fox. A: It's on his finger, invisible.

Q: In *WORLD OF KRYPTON* #2, *Superman* is shown trapped on his native world. In what issue did this originally occur?—Jeff Metzner. A: *SUPERMAN* #141.

Q: In what issue did *Ferro Lad* die?—Patrick Reynolds. A: *ADVENTURE* #353.

Q: Who is *Green Arrow*'s greatest enemy?—Mike Ruggiero. A: GA has fought a number of baddies, but I don't think any one qualifies as his arch-foe.

Q: Is Neal Adams doing any comic book work currently?—Jim Hopkins. A: Not that I know of.

Q: Will Mike Grell be doing *Green Lantern* again?—Todd Geyer. A: Not in the near future.

Q: What is the secret identity of the Earth-2 *Green Lantern*?—Tim Poisson. A: Alan Scott.

Q: How can I get a copy of the new *SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN* book?—Bob Burke. A: Watch for ordering instructions when the book is ready for publication later this year.

dc profiles number 60

CARY BATES

Comics fans who aspire to become pros are often discouraged, and tempted to give up. They should take a lesson from *Cary Bates*, one of comics' best writers, and one of the first to make the jump from fan to pro!

Born in Pittsburgh, Cary's family moved to Ohio when he was eleven. By that time, though, Cary had already become a fan of the character whose life he was later to shape—*Superman*! "I was a big fan of the Superman TV show, it was my favorite," says Cary. "I even had a Superman costume, I wore it all the time." Intrigued by the television exploits of the Man of Steel, Cary began reading Superman comics. It was during this time that Cary realized his future profession was that of comic book—artist! "I spent years swiping art from comics," shrugs Cary. "I don't have any real artistic talent, but it helps to tell a story visually."

In a way, though, it was Cary's art talent that got him into pro comics. In 1963, Cary drew up a number of suggested cover layouts and submitted them to DC editors Mort Weisinger and Julius Schwartz. Weisinger liked one of Cary's ideas—a caged, miniature Superman suspended between a gloating Luthor and Brainiac—and used it for a cover. "I didn't get paid money," Cary recalls. "In those days, they gave me the original art to the cover." Cary continued to submit cover ideas, and in 1966, decided to write a script from one of his own ideas. It was a *WORLD'S FINEST* story, which was accepted; Cary soon followed it up with a *Superman* story. About that time, Cary entered college, and worked his way through with one of the most unusual occupations on record: Cary paid tuition by putting *Superman* through his paces!

Upon graduation, in 1971, Cary moved to New York City and began writing for DC full-time. Since then, he's not only scripted the adventures of *Superman*, but those of *The Flash, Justice League, Superboy* and *The Legion of Super-Heroes*, as well as many other DC characters.

But comics are not Cary's only writing interest. In 1974, Cary sold a treatment for a James Bond movie. His treatment was not used for the final version of the film, but it was his first success outside of comics, and led him to try other film ideas. Cary's had success there, too—an Australian company will soon be producing one of Cary's as-yet untitled "horror-love stories". Cary also writes for Warren magazines.

What does Cary Bates say about becoming a success in your chosen field? "No matter how much editors try to discourage you, keep plugging away...keep knocking on doors. That applies to *anything*, not just comics." Solid advice from a man who has fashioned a comic book career for himself, despite massive obstacles. Now he's setting his sights on the world of film, and if he follows his own advice, we have no doubt he'll make it. Look out, Hollywood—here comes Cary Bates!—Mike W. Barr

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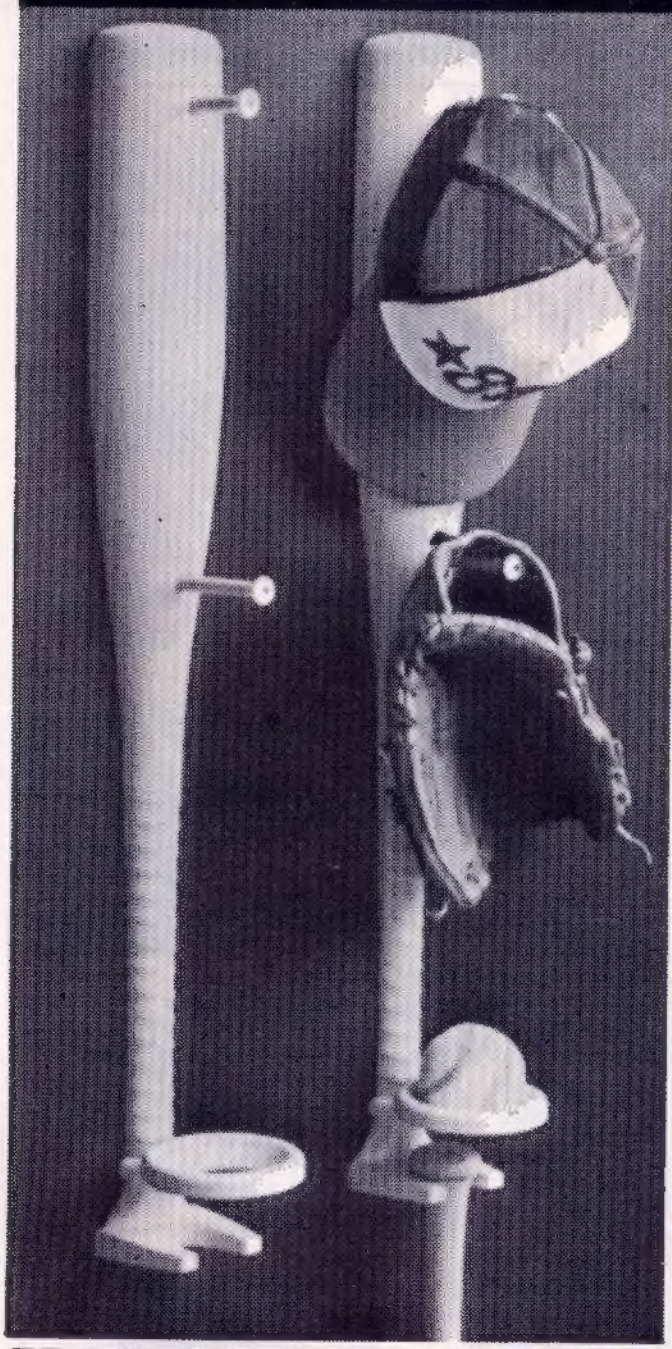

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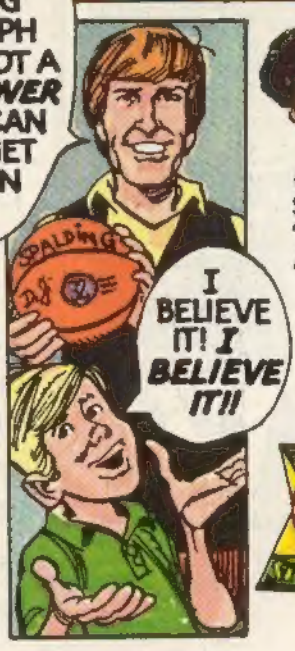

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